

## **SNELL & WILMER OBTAINS DEFENSE VERDICT FOR FORD MOTOR COMPANY**

**LAS VEGAS (October 7, 2010)** - Las Vegas attorneys Jay Schuttert and Paul Shakespear of Snell & Wilmer L.L.P have obtained a defense verdict in favor of Ford Motor Company in a case alleging a seatback defect in a 1999 Mercury Mountaineer. The driver (“Plaintiff”) of the Mercury Mountaineer claimed to have suffered an array of serious orthopedic injuries after her vehicle was rear-ended and was shoved into the rear of the vehicle that was stopped in front of her vehicle at a red light. The case was tried in Clark County District Court in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Plaintiff claimed the Mercury Mountaineer had a defect in the design of its driver’s seat that caused the seat to collapse when the Mountaineer was struck from the rear. Plaintiff claimed that the seat collapse caused her to ramp up her seatback and to be out of position during the subsequent frontal collision with the vehicle that was stopped in front of her, which allegedly caused her orthopedic injuries.

The Snell & Wilmer defense team presented evidence that the 1999 Mercury Mountaineer was well-designed and tested, that the driver’s exceeded the federal government’s seat strength standard by over three hundred percent, that the seat yielded rearward as intended during the crash to absorb the energy of the rear-end collision, and that Plaintiff’s injuries had nothing to do with the position on the seatback; rather, her injuries occurred during the subsequent frontal impact because she likely was not wearing her seatbelt.

After deliberating for approximately 5 hours following a two-week trial, the eight-person jury returned a unanimous verdict in favor of Ford.

### **About Snell & Wilmer L.L.P.**

Founded in 1938, Snell & Wilmer is a full-service business law firm with more than 400 attorneys practicing in nine locations throughout the western United States and in Mexico, including Las Vegas and Reno, Nevada; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Los Angeles and Orange County, California; Denver, Colorado; Salt Lake City, Utah; and Los Cabos, Mexico. The firm represents clients ranging from large, publicly traded corporations to small businesses, individuals and entrepreneurs. For more information, visit [www.swlaw.com](http://www.swlaw.com).

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